WE CLAIM:

1. A filter, comprising a synthetic filter material formed into a filter structure and having at least one embossment having a depth of at least about 1.5 mm.

2. The filter of claim 1, wherein said filter material is a hydrocarbon-based material.

3. The filter of claim 1, wherein said synthetic filter material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof.

4. The filter of claim 1, wherein said filter material has a permeability of air to at least about 4 $l/m^2/s$.

5. The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment has a depth of at least about 4.0 mm.

6. The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment has a depth of at least about 5.0 mm.

7. The filter of claim 1, wherein said material has a weight of greater than or equal to about 50 g/m^2.

8. The filter of claim 1, wherein said embossment has said depth and a width, and wherein a ratio of said depth to said width is at least about 1:10.

9. A method for forming a filter, comprising the steps of:

providing a synthetic filter material;

forming at least one embossment into said material, said embossment having a depth of at least about 1.5 mm, so as to provide an embossed synthetic material; and

forming said embossed synthetic material into said filter.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said filter material is a hydrocarbon-based material.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said filter material has a permeability to air of at least about 4.0 $l/m^2/s$.

13. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of heating said material to a melting point of said material prior to forming said embossment.

14. The method claim 9, wherein said embossment has a depth of at least about 4.0 mm.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of forming said embossment comprises forming said embossment having a depth of at least about 5.0 mm.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein said embossed material is substantially free of ruptures at said embossment.

17. The method of claim 9, wherein said material has a weight of greater than or equal to about 50 g/m^2.

18. The method of claim 9, wherein said embossment has said depth and a width, and wherein a ratio of said depth to said width is at least about 1:10.